

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 07393 032159Z  
ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 OPIC-06 AID-05  
/038 W

-----026729 040405Z /12

R 032026Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2553  
INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 7393

PASS EXIMBANK

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BEXP, EFIN, AR  
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EXIMBANK ASSISTANCE IN FINANCING  
GROUND STATION

REFERENCE: STATE 205898

1. THE COMISION NACIONAL DE INVESTIGACIONES ESPACIALES (CNIE) WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1958 BY DECREE NO. 11147/58. ITS FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ARE ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO THOSE OF NASA ON A MUCH REDUCED SCALE. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATIONS IN SPACE. THEY HAVE A PROGRAM FOR LAUNCHING ROCKETS AND BALLOONS, A REMOTE SENSING PROGRAM, A A HAIL DETERRENT PROGRAM AND THEY DO SOME WORK WITH UNCONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SOLAR, ETC). THEY ARE ALSO CHARGED WITH MAINTAINING RELATIONS WITH OTHER SPACE AGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD.

2. CNIE IS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION IN ARGENTINA WITH RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE SPACE AREA. IT REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE COMMANDER OF THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE, BUT IT IS NOT A MILITARY ORGANIZATION. IT EMPLOYES APPROXIMATELY 90 PEOPLE, 40 OF WHOM ARE PROFESSIONALS,  
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AND ABOUT 12 OF WHOM ARE ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY OFFICERS (AIR FORCE). THE PRESIDENT OF CNIE IS AIR FORCE BRIGADIER MIGUEL SANCHEZ PENA. SECOND LINE EXECUTIVES, ENTITLED "VOCALES EJECUTIVOS" ARE COMODORO JUAN JOSE TASSO AND COMODORO MARTIN E. ITURRIOZ.

3. THE ORGANIZATION APPEARS US TO BE FULLY CAPABLE OF MANAGING THE GROUND STATION PROJECT, WHICH, WILL RECEIVE AND PROCESS PHOTOPGRAPHY FROM A LANDSAT SATELLITE APPLICABLE TO AGRICULTURE (ESTIMATING PLANTINGS, FOLLOWING PROGRESS OF CROPS), GEOLOGY, MINING, ENERGY PLANNING, FISHERIES, FORESTATION AND LOCATION OF WATER SOURCES. IN SUM IT IS A PRIMARY TOOL FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND CATALOGUEING OF NATRUAL RESOURCES.

4. THE CNIE'S BUDGET COMES FROM THE AIR FORCE'S PART OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET. THEY HAVE SPECIFIC AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT FOR FINANCING FOR THIS PROJECT. SOURCES AT THE CNIE INDICATE THAT THE PROJECT WILL BE DECLARED OF "NATIONAL PRIORITY" BY MEANS OF A DRECREE OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. THIS IS THE PROCEDURE UNDERTAKEN WHEN THE GOA WISHES TO ASSIGN PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO AN INVESTMENT PROJECT. EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW PRIORITY RANKING OF THE PROJECT RELATIVE TO THE OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT PROJECTS. PERHAPS THE CENTRAL BANKS LISTING OF PUBLIC SECTOR PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED IN NOV OF THIS YEAR WILL REVEAL THE RELATIVE STANDING OF THIS PROJECT. COPY WAS PROMISED TO EXIM OFFICIALS DURING RECENT VISIT. (EMBASSY DOUBTS LIST WILL BE AVAILABLE BY NOV, HOWEVER.)  
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5. A CANADIAN FIRM ("CDC") IS INTERESTED IN THE CONTRACT AND WILL BE COMPETING WITH GENERAL ELECTRIC, BENDIX AND TRW CONTROLS.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPACE PROGRAMS, LANDSAT, TRACKING STATIONS, LOAN GUARANTEES, INVESTMENT PROGRAMS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REQUEST FOR EXIMBANK ASSISTANCE IN FINANCING GROUND STATION  
**TAGS:** BEXP, EFIN, TSPA, AR, CNIE, XMB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009